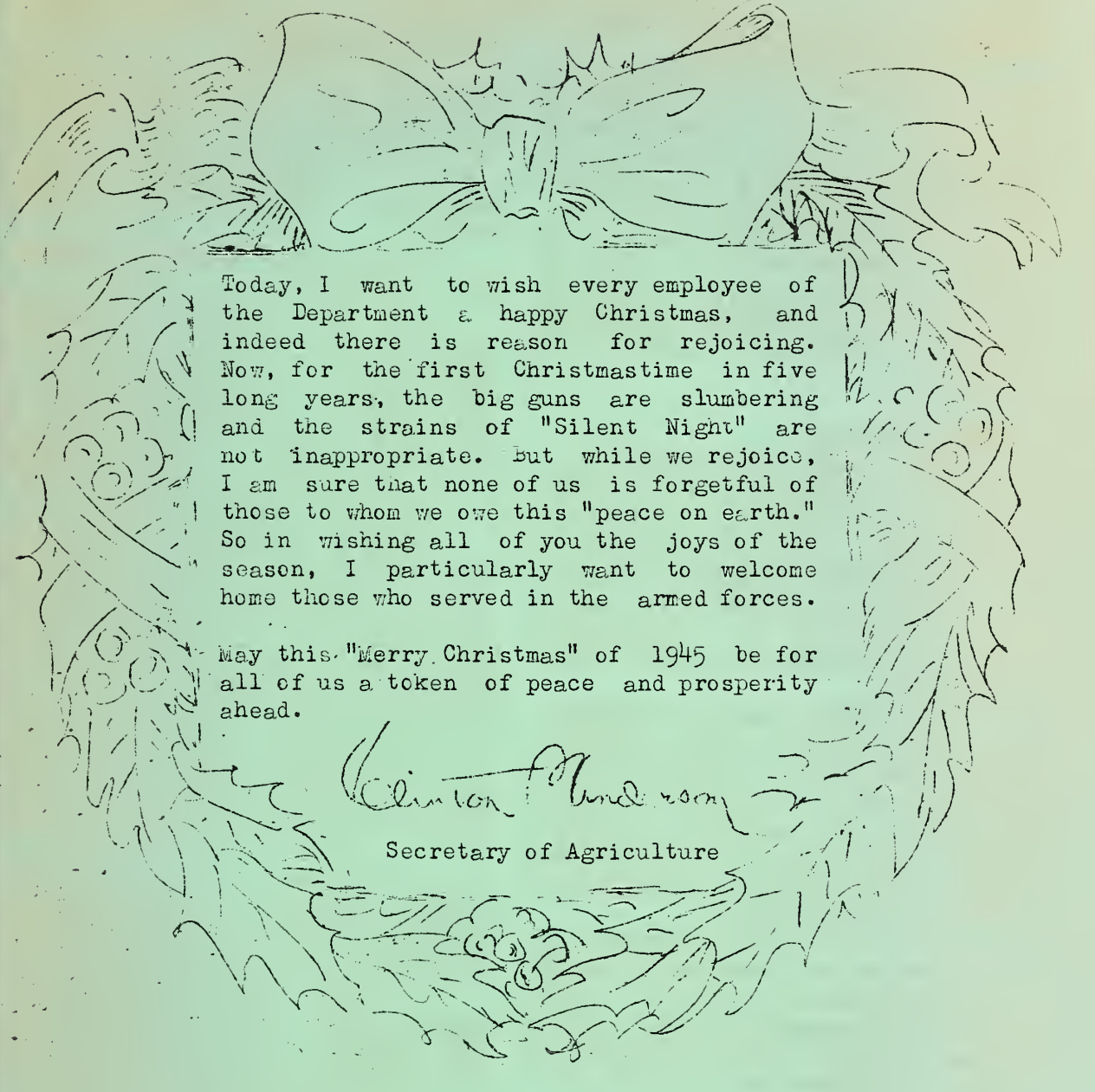


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Today, I want to wish every employee of the Department a happy Christmas, and indeed there is reason for rejoicing. Now, for the first Christmastime in five long years, the big guns are slumbering and the strains of "Silent Night" are not inappropriate. But while we rejoice, I am sure that none of us is forgetful of those to whom we owe this "peace on earth." So in wishing all of you the joys of the season, I particularly want to welcome home those who served in the armed forces.

May this "Merry Christmas" of 1945 be for all of us a token of peace and prosperity ahead.

Clinton Anderson

Secretary of Agriculture

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U.S.D.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas Party for our big USDA family will be held in the Patio of the Administration Building on Friday, Dec. 23 at 11:30. Everyone is invited to come and join in the old-fashioned carolling program around the Christmas tree. Secretary Anderson will be there to greet you in the spirit of the season. Be there with your fellow-employees to start off the holiday season.

"GIFTS TO YANKS"

Boxes have been placed at the 4th wing, Independence Ave. entrance to the South Bldg. and by the Information Desk at the main entrance to the Administration Bldg. to receive your gifts for the "Yanks who gave." Mrs. Williams at the Information Desk is authorized to receive monetary gifts.

The American Legion is sponsoring this campaign for Christmas gifts which will be delivered to the men and women in the local military hospitals. Buy something useful, wrap it gayly, mark the contents and leave your package to brighten some "Yank's" Christmas Day.

By the way, did you contribute enough in the supplementary community War Fund Drive to assist a neighboring Washingtonian in need of help? If not, see your bureau chairman and leave a Christmas check for the Community War Fund.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

This Christmas season we can once more enter whole-heartedly into joyous holiday activities. Christmas Music has been typical of the season for many hundreds of years and we all enjoy the old, familiar carols.

Some of the programs scheduled are as follows:

Dec. 20 - 8 p.m. - Christmas Concert by G. W. Glee Club, Lisner Auditorium, H & 21st Sts., N. W.; 8:30 p.m. - Christmas Concert by Choral Society of Washington Cathedral; 8:30 p.m. - When the Christ Child Came, Covenant - First Presbyterian Church, Conn. at N St.

Many of you have asked about THE MESSIAH. It will be presented by the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 6th & A Sts., N. E. on Dec. 23 at 7:45 p.m.; at the New York Ave. Presbyterian Church, 13th & N. Y., N. W. on Dec. 23 at 8 p.m.; at Clarendon Methodist Church, 6th & N. Irving Sts., Arlington, Dec. 24 at 8 p.m.; and at Foundry Methodist Church, 16th & P Sts., N. W., Dec. 24 at 11 p.m.

On Dec. 23, at 5 p.m., the Mt. Vernon players and the Childrens Choirs will present "Once There Was A Lamb" at the Mt. Vernon Pl. Church.

A great many more programs of music, plays, dances, dinners, etc. are scheduled for the season. See the Christmas issue of "Do You Know" in your contact officer's office.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RED CROSS

The wives of employees of the Department have collected \$1107.50 for overseas recreation chests to be sent to boys in far-off hospitals by the Camp and Hospital Service of the Red Cross.

These Xmas chests contain such things as decks of cards, harmonicas, chess, dominoes, checkers, baseball, softball, handball and musical instruments. Each chest costs \$15 so 733 chests will be purchased with the money collected. We're proud to be able to report this activity of Agriculture wives.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY

The "15/30" committee of the National Symphony has arranged a series of three concerts for young people. Tuesday, Jan 8, Lauritz Melchior, the world's greatest dramatic tenor, will be the soloist. Thursday, Feb. 28, there will be an all Russian program with Earl Wild, pianist, and on Thursday, April 4, the program will be an all-request orchestral program. Series tickets may be obtained from Kitt's, 1330 G St., N. W.

THOMPSON'S TOURS

Thompson's Tours is now located at 1723 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 20th St., N. W. The phone number is DEcautr 6968. in addition to offering planned group tours, Mrs. Thompson is able to arrange individual hotel reservations in N. Y. C. and Atlantic City.

AGRICULTURE PLAYERS

The Agriculture Players are off to a good start. At their second meeting, on Dec. 11, Mr. Freed, the director, gave assignments in accordance with each one's talents. The group, though small, is very enthusiastic, and they want more people to come out. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 5:30, in the Auditorium. Everyone interested in any phase of dramatics is invited to attend.

PARTY SPOTS

If you're looking for a place to have a party, ask your contact officer to let you see the Nov. 15 issue of "Do You Know." A number of clubrooms, suitable for informal parties, are described. Arrangements can be made for dancing and for serving refreshments.

MOVIES

On Thursday, Dec. 20, at 5:40, the Graduate School will inaugurate a program of movies in the auditorium for G. S. students and faculty, USDA employees, their families and friends. The pictures scheduled for Dec. 20 are "Sunshine Skiing," a gorgeous color film of this thrilling winter sport (15 min.) and "Coast to Coast," a scenic color picture of Canada from Atlantic to the Pacific, showing beautiful cities, mountains, rivers and the work, play and sports of the people.

AGRICULTURE BRIDGE NEWS

In almost every bridge hand, there is one play which is the key to success. The careful player looks for this key play first. Observe how South handled his contract of four spades against the opening leads of the Jack of Diamonds:

S K-J-x-x
 H Q-x
 D A-x-x-x
 C x-x-x
 N.

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| S x | S 10-x-x-x |
| H K-x-x-x W. E. | H x-x-x |
| D J-10-9 | D Q-x-x |
| C A-Q-10-x-x S. | C J-x-x |

S A-Q-x-x
 H A-J-10-9
 D K-x-x
 C K-x

South saw that his contract was safe unless East could get in the lead to lead a club through South's King. The key to the hand, therefore, is to keep East out of the lead. The key play, to accomplish this, was to lose the diamond trick, which must be lost to West; South, therefore, let West's Jack of Diamonds hold the first trick. After this the defenders were helpless to defeat the contract, taking only 1 diamond, 1 heart, and 1 club.

Note: In view of the great interest in bridge shown by the Department employees, Charles A. Lyons, expert player and teacher, will be glad to

answer any questions regarding your bridge problems. Mail inquiries to him, E&PQ, Room 6247 South Building.

PLEASE NOTE

Some Agriculture employees have been thoughtlessly emptying coffee cups out the windows onto cars parked in the courts below. Everyone is urged to cooperate in refraining from throwing anything whatsoever from the windows.

WANT RIDES

Miss Wilburn, 3446 Conn. Ave., N. W., ext. 2753

Mrs. Totoro, Riverside Ave., Cabin John, Md., ext. 4361

Miss Macias, Lee Hwy. & Glebe Rd., Arlington, Va., ext. 2753

Miss Addison, 16th & Euclid, N. W., ext. 2120

WANTS RIDERS

Mr. Rounsaville, 5310 R St., Coral Hills, Md., ext. 4883

WANTS RIDE OR ROTATOR

Mr. Leith, 4704 S. 30th St., Fairlington, Va., ext. 4193

WANTS RIDE TO BELTSVILLE

Miss Gilmore, 4831 N. H. Ave., N. W., dial 837, ext. 108

STATE SOCIETIES

The following state societies are holding dances during the holiday season. Dress is optional; tickets may be obtained at the door.

KENTUCKY - Dec. 28 - Willard

PENNSYLVANIA - Jan. 1 - Shoreham